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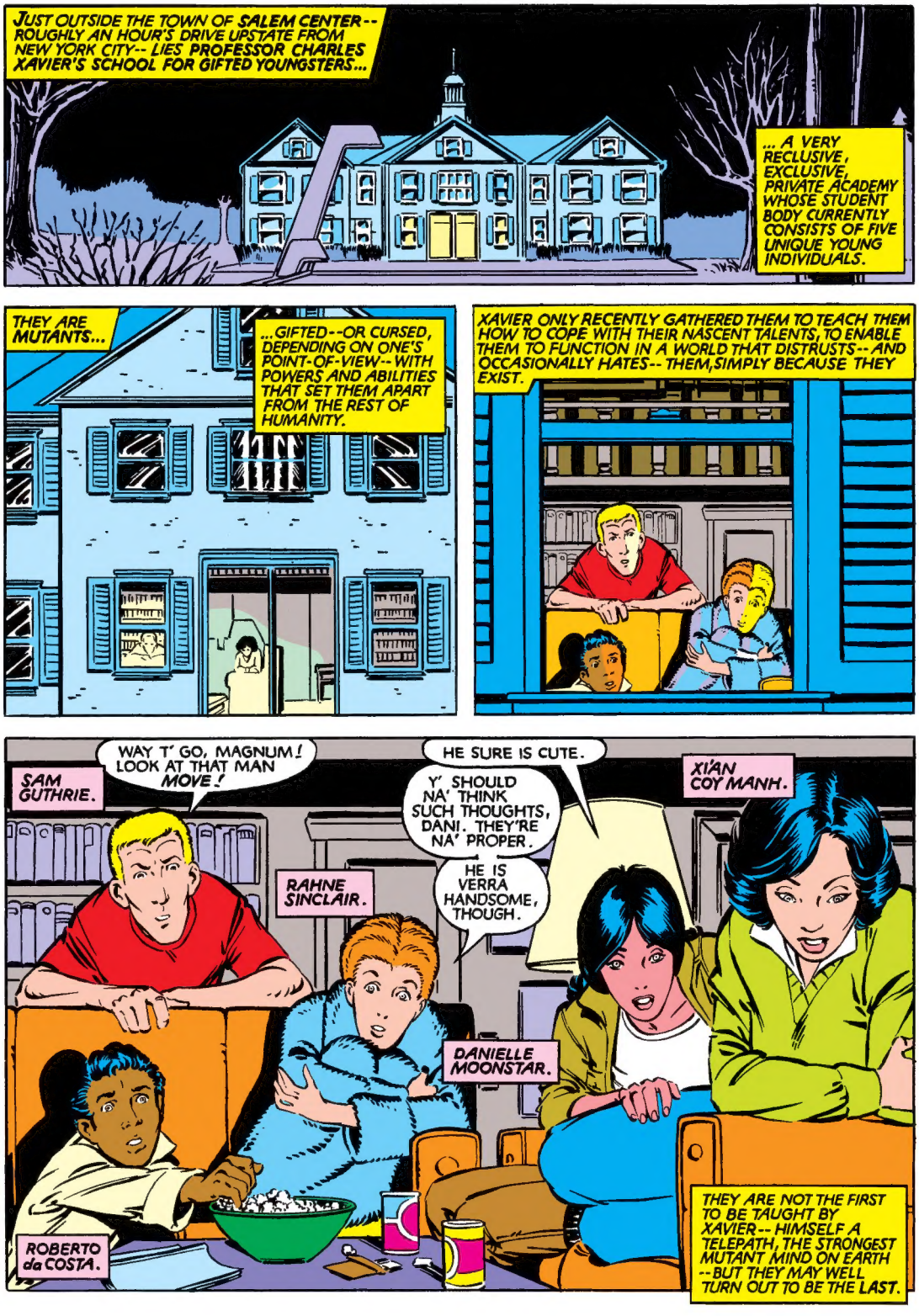

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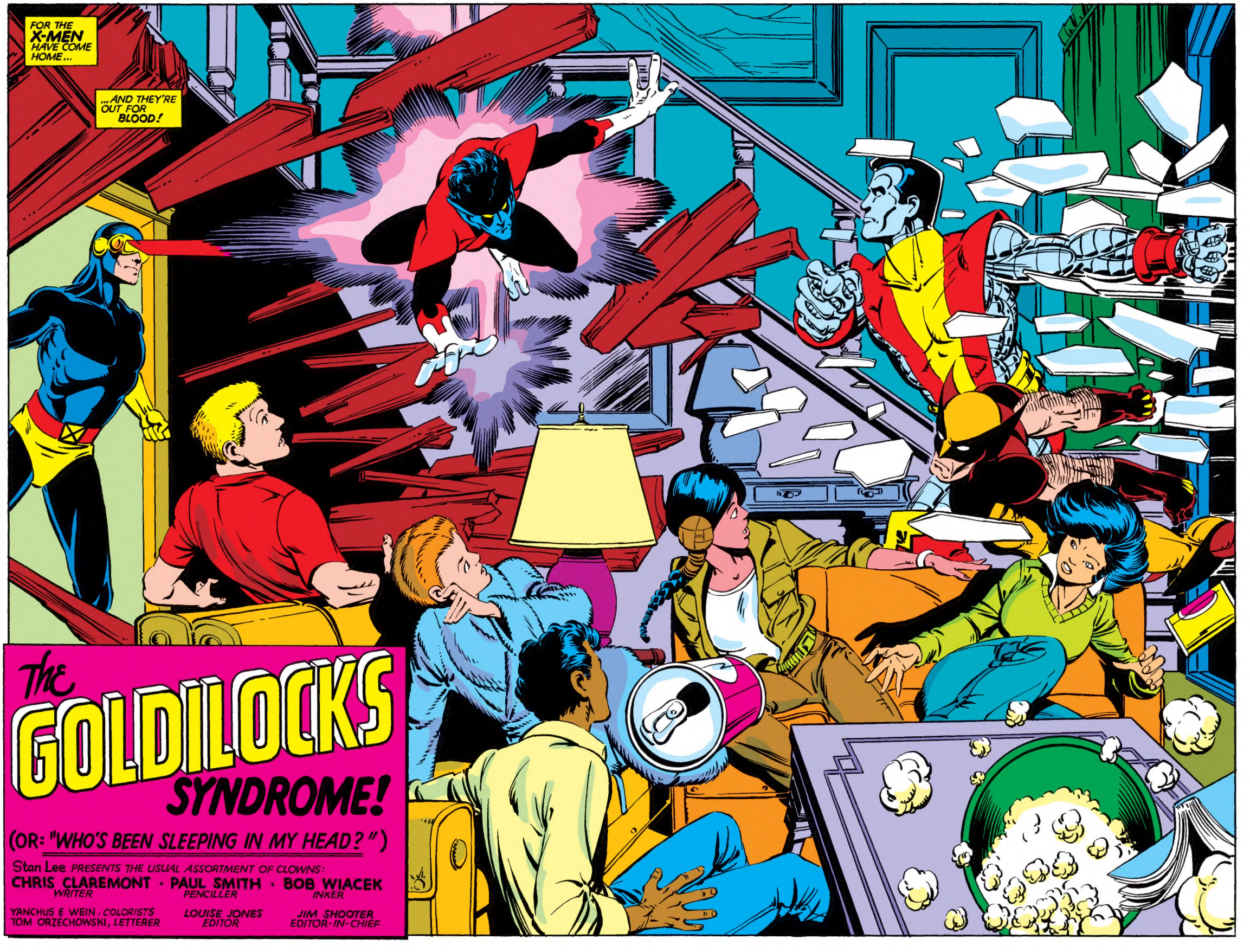
FOR THE X-MEN HAVE COME HOME...
...AND THEY'RE OUT FOR BLOOD!
The GOLDILOCKS SYNDROME!
(OR: "WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING IN MY HEAD?")
Stan Lee PRESENTS THE USUAL ASSORTMENT OF CLOWNS:
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PAUL SMITH · PENCILLER
BOB WIACEK · INKER
YANCHUS & WEIN, COLORISTS
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, LETTERER
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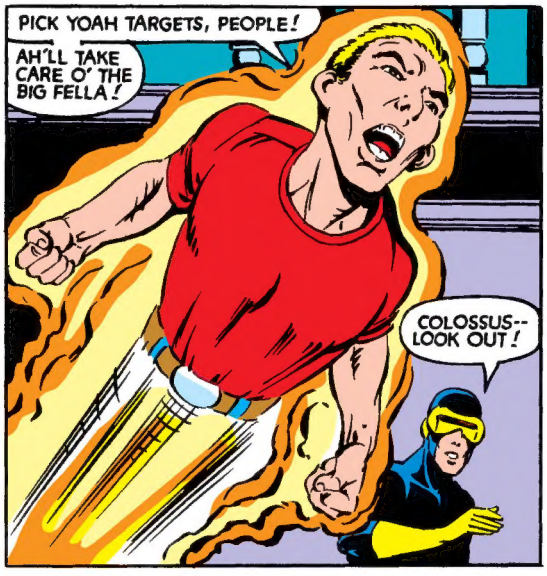
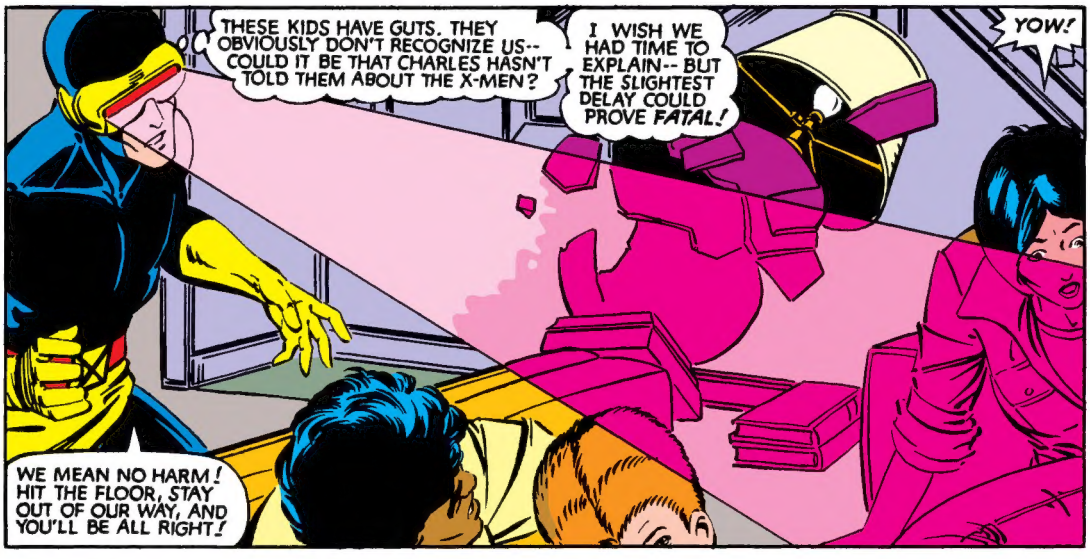
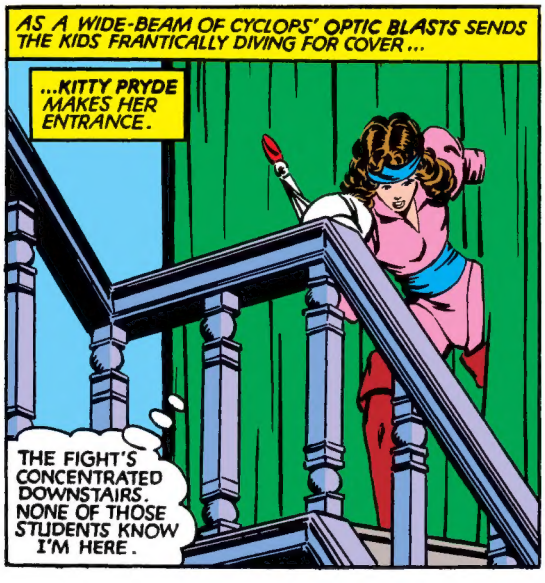
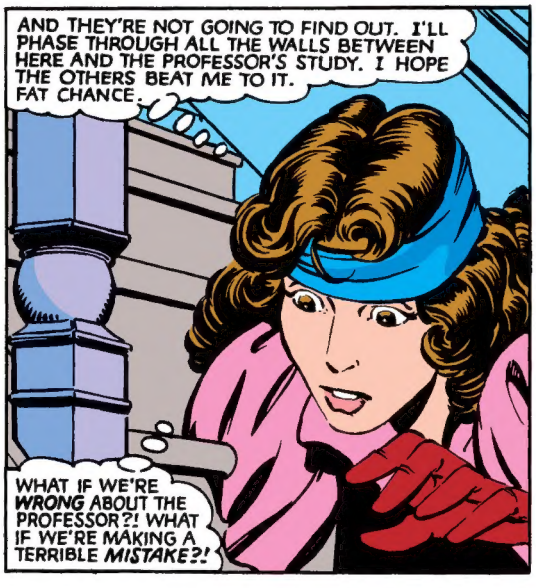
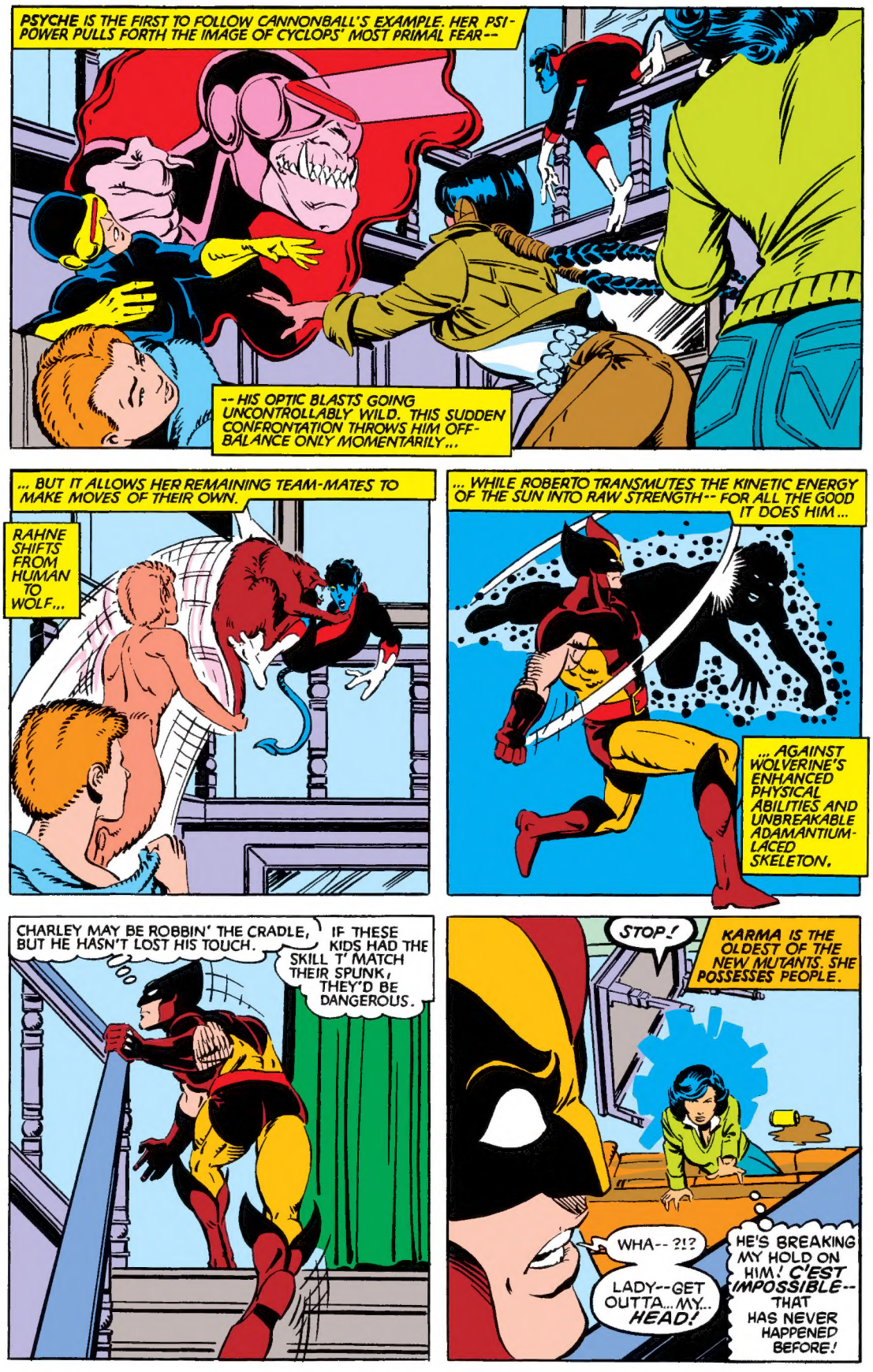

PICK YOAH TARGETS, PEOPLE!
AH'LL TAKE CARE O' THE BIG FELLA!
COLOSSUS-- LOOK OUT!

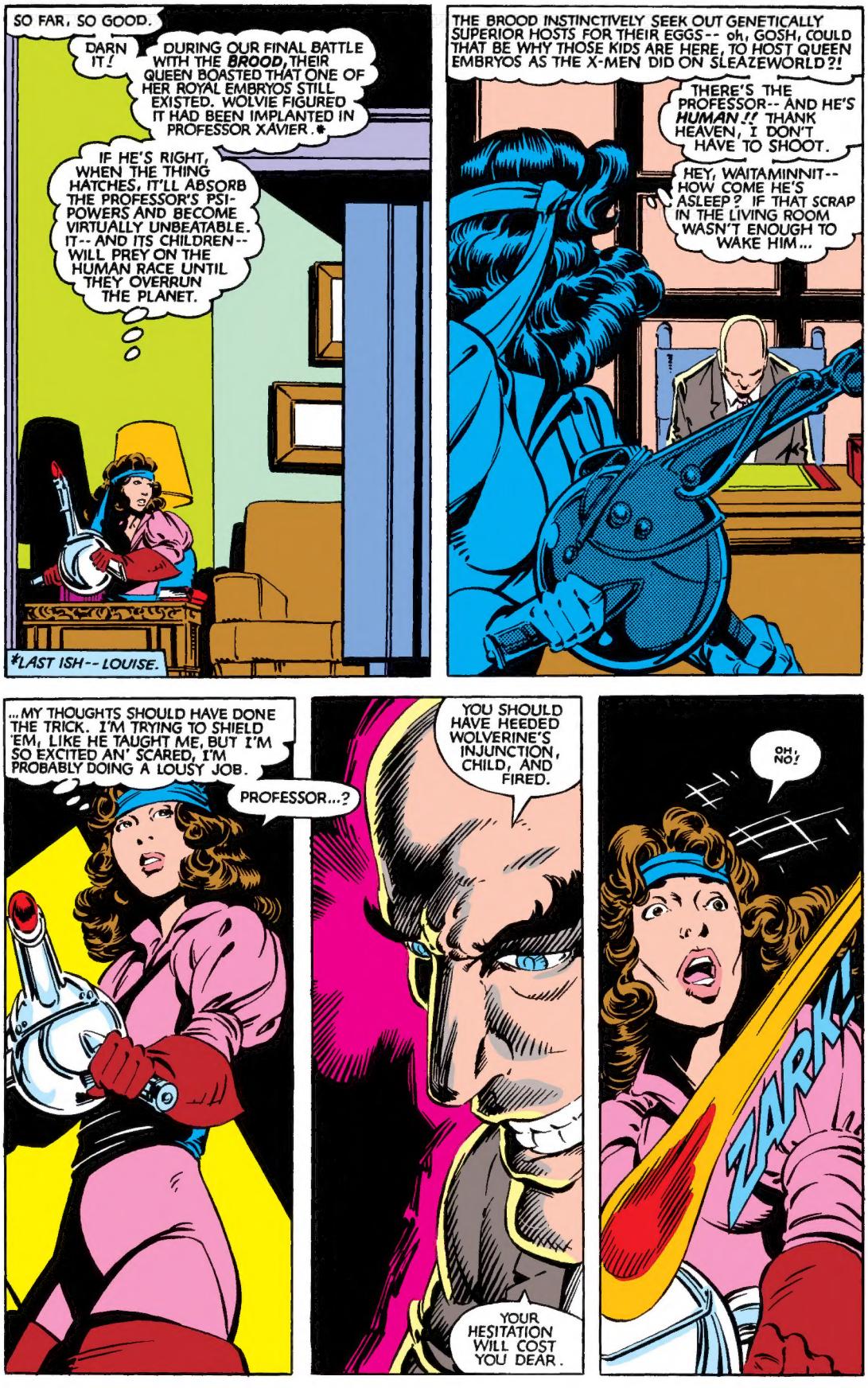
CYCLOPS' WARNING COMES TOO LATE AS SAM MENTALLY IGNITES THE THERMO-CHEMICAL REACTION WHICH FORMS THE ESSENCE OF HIS MUTANT POWER-- WITH SPECTACULAR RESULTS.
IT'S A GOOD THING AH'M PRETTY MUCH INVULNERABLE AS CANNONBALL.
AH FEEL LIKE AH JUST SLAMMED FULL-TILT INTO A MOUNTAIN!

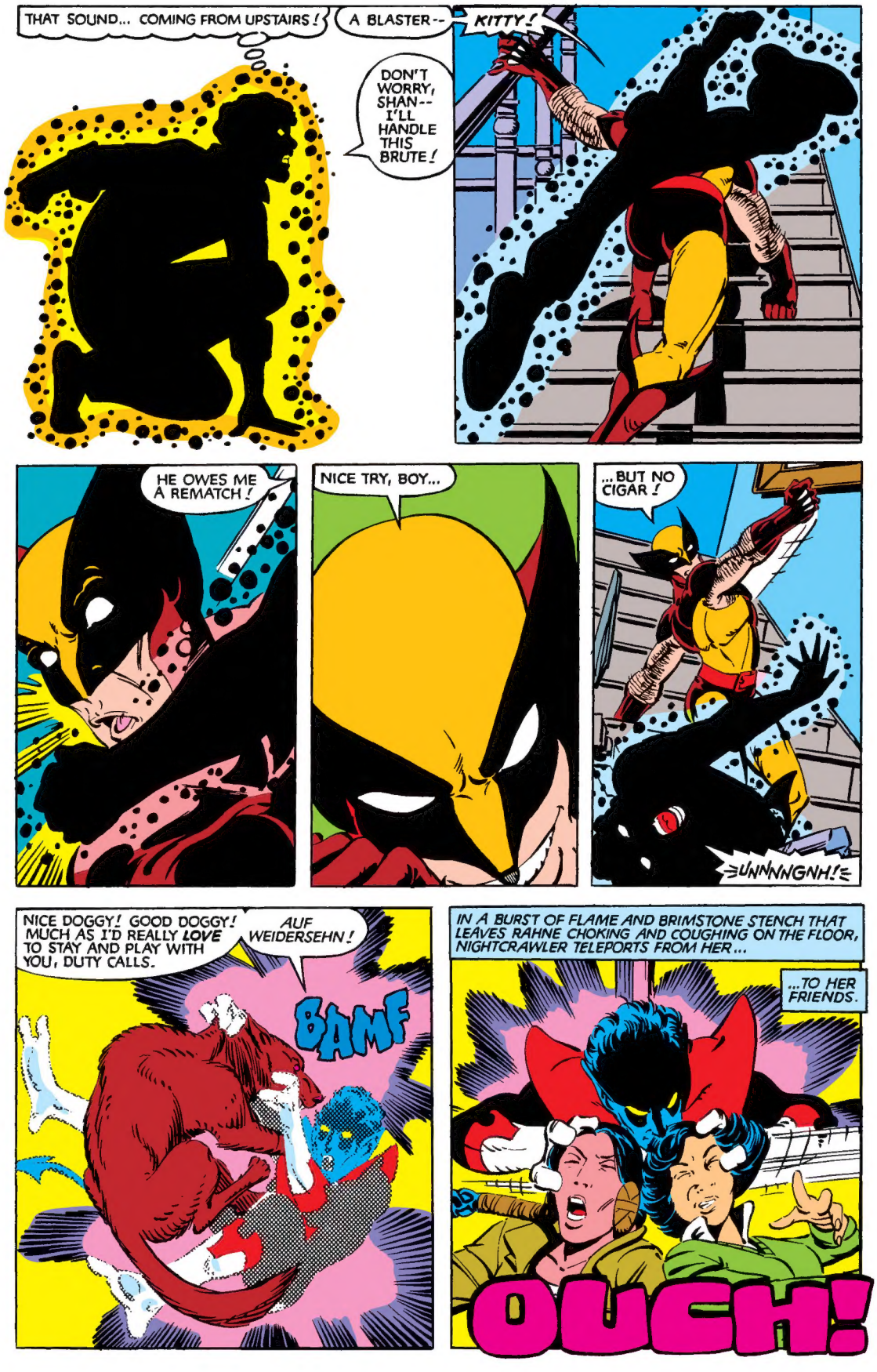

THESE KIDS HAVE GUTS. THEY OBVIOUSLY DON'T RECOGNIZE US-- COULD IT BE THAT CHARLES HASN'T TOLD THEM ABOUT THE X-MEN?
I WISH WE HAD TIME TO EXPLAIN-- BUT THE SLIGHTEST DELAY COULD PROVE FATAL!
YOW!
WE MEAN NO HARM! HIT THE FLOOR, STAY OUT OF OUR WAY, AND YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

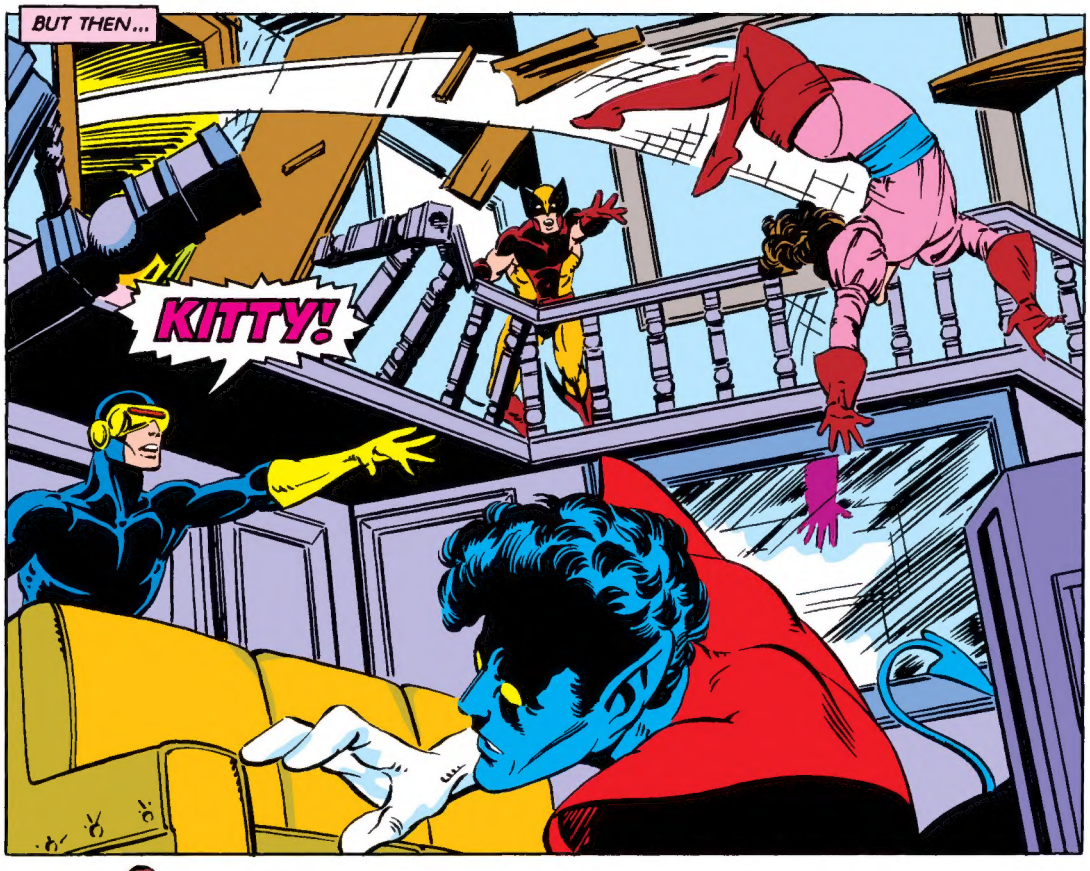

AS A WIDE-BEAM OF CYCLOPS' OPTIC BLASTS SENDS THE KIDS FRANTICALLY DIVING FOR COVER...
...KITTY PRYDE MAKES HER ENTRANCE.
THE FIGHT'S CONCENTRATED DOWNSTAIRS. NONE OF THOSE STUDENTS KNOW I'M HERE.

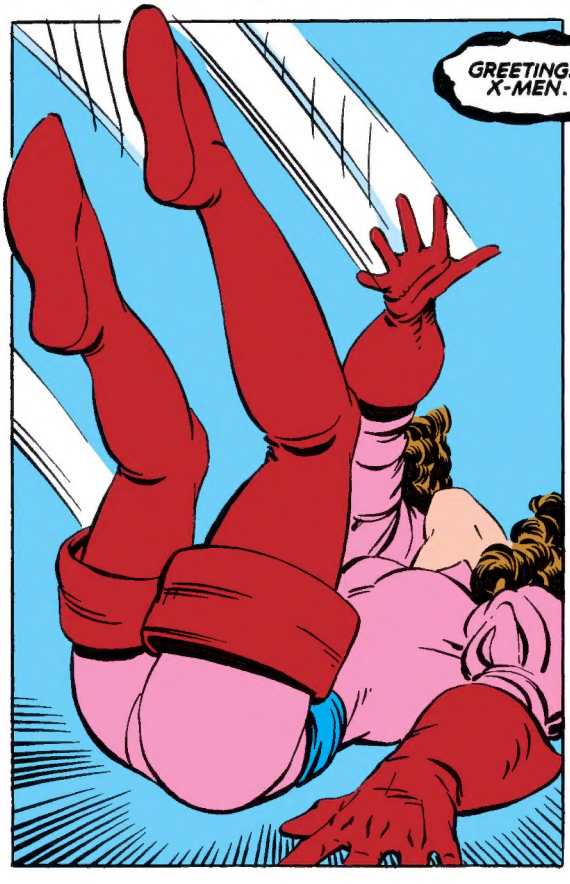

AND THEY'RE NOT GOING TO FIND OUT. I'LL PHASE THROUGH ALL THE WALLS BETWEEN HERE AND THE PROFESSOR'S STUDY. I HOPE THE OTHERS BEAT ME TO IT.
FAT CHANCE.
WHAT IF WE'RE WRONG ABOUT THE PROFESSOR?! WHAT IF WE'RE MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE?!

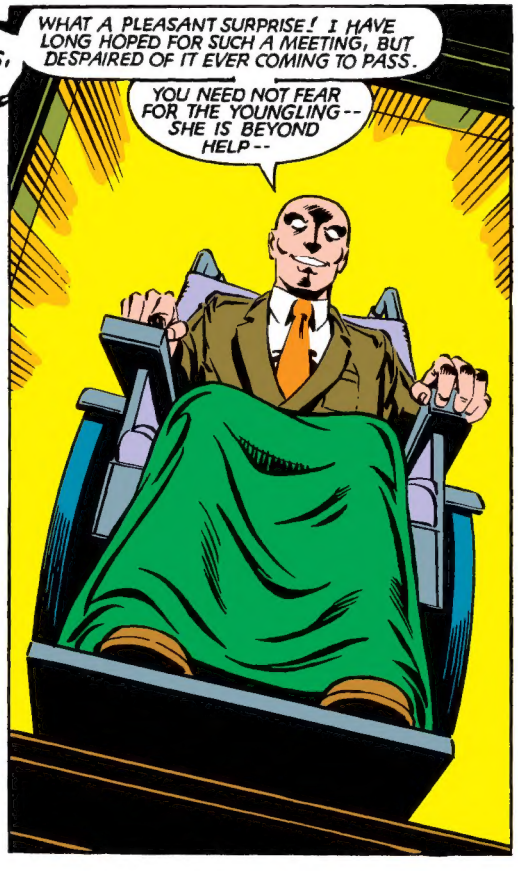

PSYCHE IS THE FIRST TO FOLLOW CANNONBALL'S EXAMPLE. HER PSI-POWER PULLS FORTH THE IMAGE OF CYCLOPS' MOST PRIMAL FEAR--
--HIS OPTIC BLASTS GOING UNCONTROLLABLY WILD. THIS SUDDEN CONFRONTATION THROWS HIM OFF-BALANCE ONLY MOMENTARILY...
... BUT IT ALLOWS HER REMAINING TEAM-MATES TO MAKE MOVES OF THEIR OWN.
RAHNE SHIFTS FROM HUMAN TO WOLF...
... WHILE ROBERTO TRANSMUTES THE KINETIC ENERGY OF THE SUN INTO RAW STRENGTH-- FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DOES HIM...
... AGAINST WOLVERINE'S ENHANCED PHYSICAL ABILITIES AND UNBREAKABLE ADAMANTIUM-LACED SKELETON.
CHARLEY MAY BE ROBBIN' THE CRADLE, BUT HE HASN'T LOST HIS TOUCH.
IF THESE KIDS HAD THE SKILL T' MATCH THEIR SPUNK, THEY'D BE DANGEROUS.
STOP!
KARMA IS THE OLDEST OF THE NEW MUTANTS. SHE POSSESSES PEOPLE.
WHA-- ?!?
LADY--GET OUTTA... MY... HEAD!
HE'S BREAKING MY HOLD ON HIM! C'EST IMPOSSIBLE-- THAT HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!

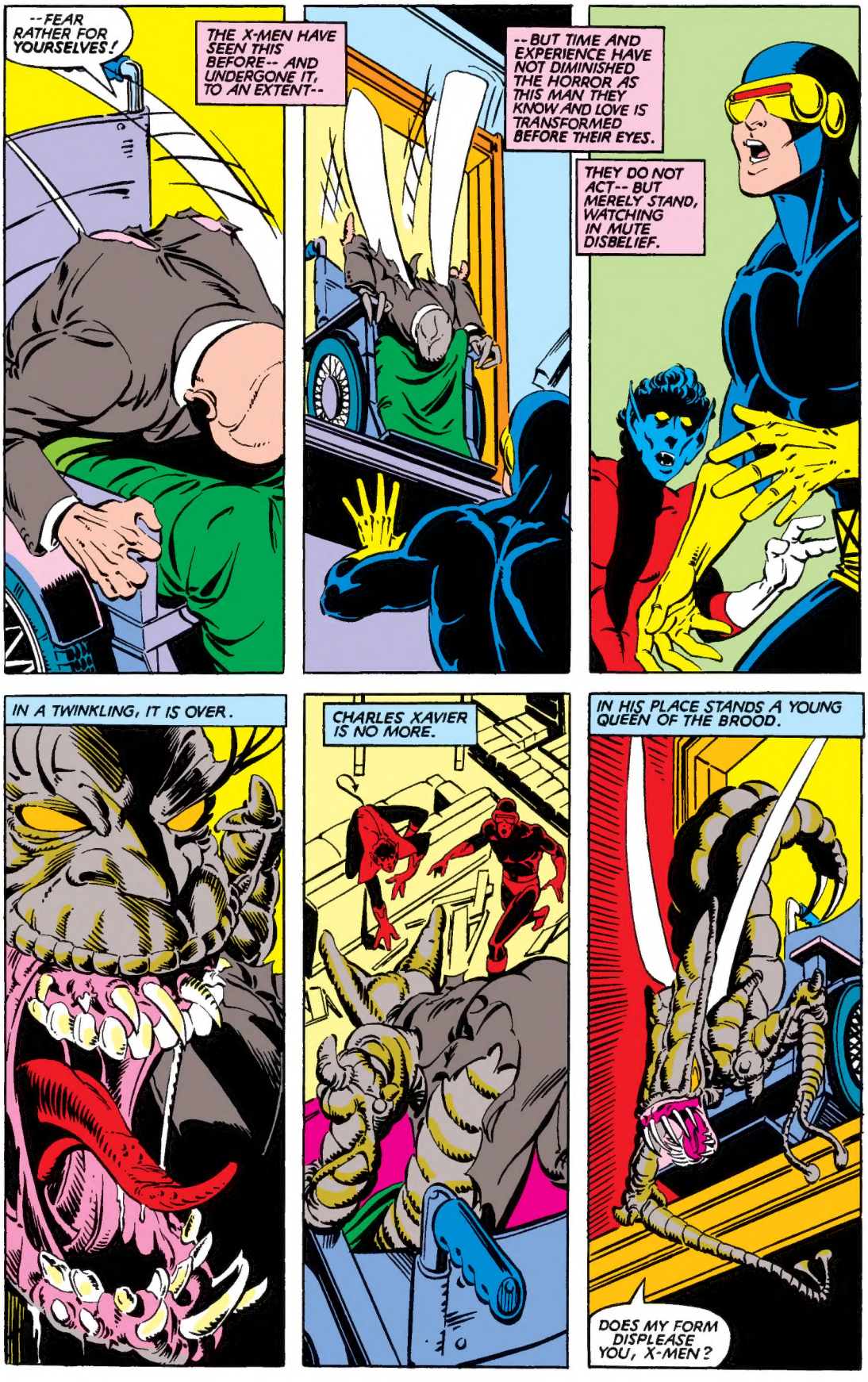

SO FAR, SO GOOD.
DARN IT!
DURING OUR FINAL BATTLE WITH THE BROOD, THEIR QUEEN BOASTED THAT ONE OF HER ROYAL EMBRYOS STILL EXISTED. WOLVIE FIGURED IT HAD BEEN IMPLANTED IN PROFESSOR XAVIER.*
IF HE'S RIGHT, WHEN THE THING HATCHES, IT'LL ABSORB THE PROFESSOR'S PSI-POWERS AND BECOME VIRTUALLY UNBEATABLE. IT-- AND ITS CHILDREN-- WILL PREY ON THE HUMAN RACE UNTIL THEY OVERRUN THE PLANET.
*LAST ISH-- LOUISE.
THE BROOD INSTINCTIVELY SEEK OUT GENETICALLY SUPERIOR HOSTS FOR THEIR EGGS-- oh, GOSH, COULD THAT BE WHY THOSE KIDS ARE HERE, TO HOST QUEEN EMBRYOS AS THE X-MEN DID ON SLEAZEWORLD?!
THERE'S THE PROFESSOR-- AND HE'S HUMAN!! THANK HEAVEN, I DON'T HAVE TO SHOOT.
HEY, WAITAMINNIT-- HOW COME HE'S ASLEEP? IF THAT SCRAP IN THE LIVING ROOM WASN'T ENOUGH TO WAKE HIM...
...MY THOUGHTS SHOULD HAVE DONE THE TRICK. I'M TRYING TO SHIELD 'EM, LIKE HE TAUGHT ME, BUT I'M SO EXCITED AN' SCARED, I'M PROBABLY DOING A LOUSY JOB.
PROFESSOR...?
YOU SHOULD HAVE HEEDED WOLVERINE'S INJUNCTION, CHILD, AND FIRED.
YOUR HESITATION WILL COST YOU DEAR.
OH, NO!
ZARK!

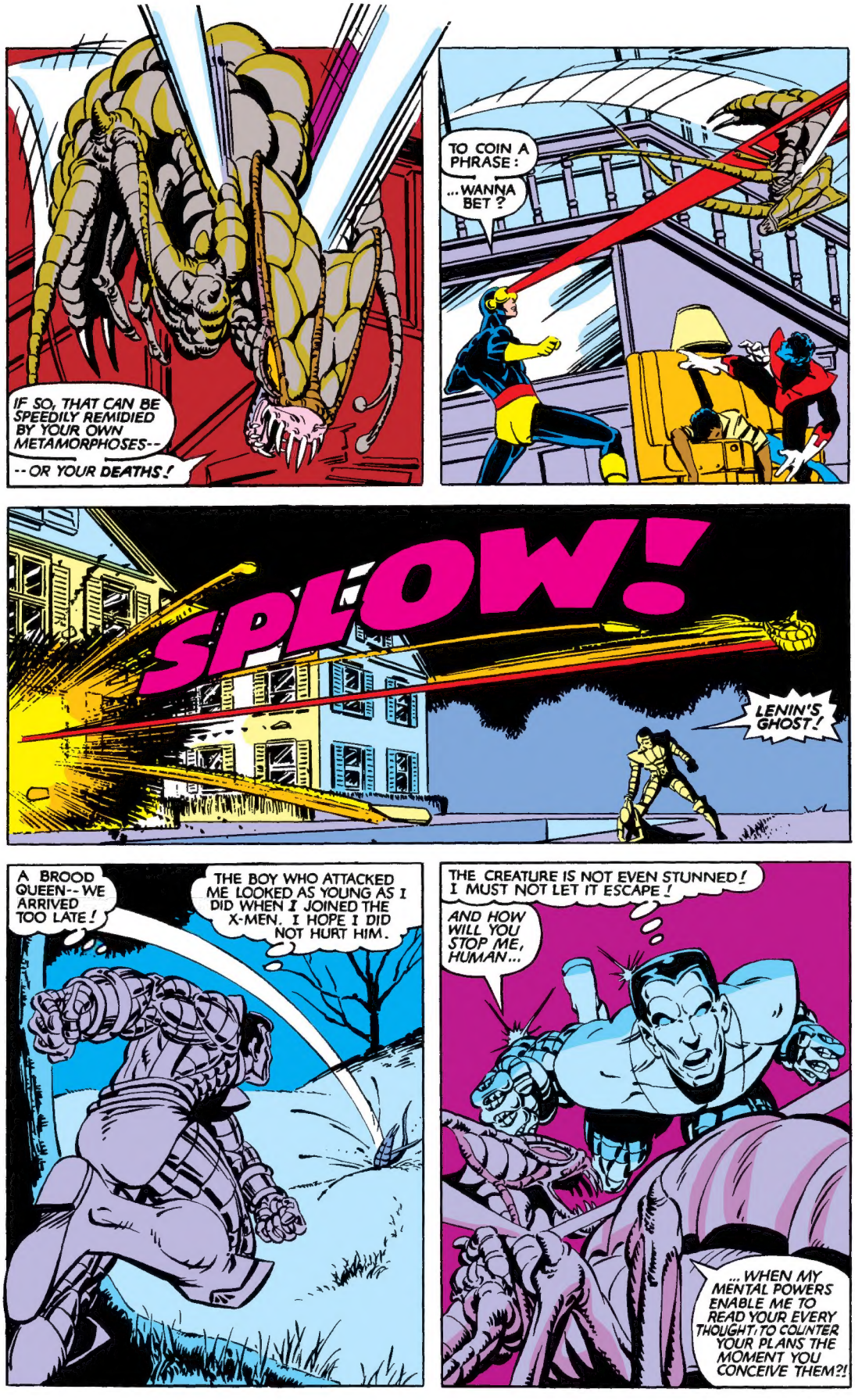

THAT SOUND... COMING FROM UPSTAIRS!
A BLASTER--
KITTY!
DON'T WORRY, SHAN-- I'LL HANDLE THIS BRUTE!
HE OWES ME A REMATCH!
NICE TRY, BOY...
...BUT NO CIGAR!
UNNNNGNH!
NICE DOGGY! GOOD DOGGY! MUCH AS I'D REALLY LOVE TO STAY AND PLAY WITH YOU, DUTY CALLS.
AUF WEIDERSEHN!
BAMF
IN A BURST OF FLAME AND BRIMSTONE STENCH THAT LEAVES RAHNE CHOKING AND COUGHING ON THE FLOOR, NIGHTCRAWLER TELEPORTS FROM HER...
...TO HER FRIENDS.
OUCH!

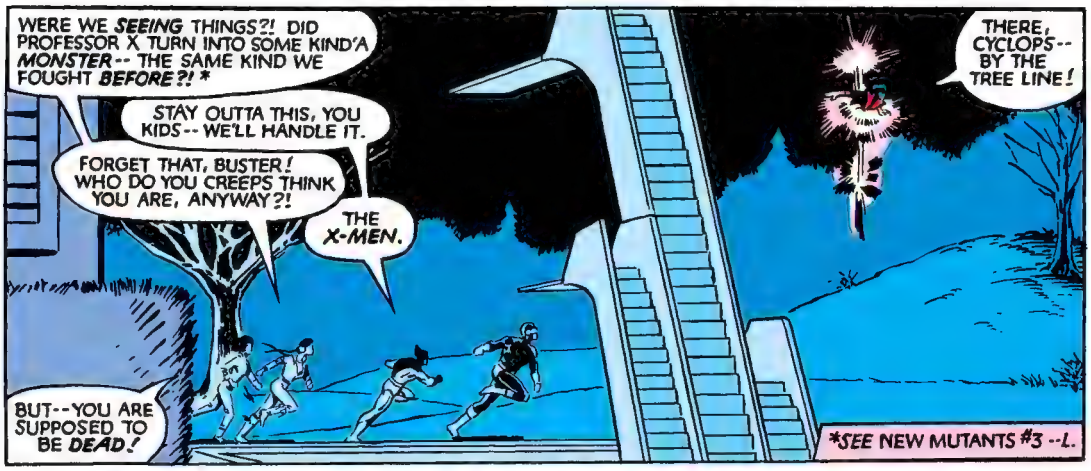

BUT THEN...
KITTY!

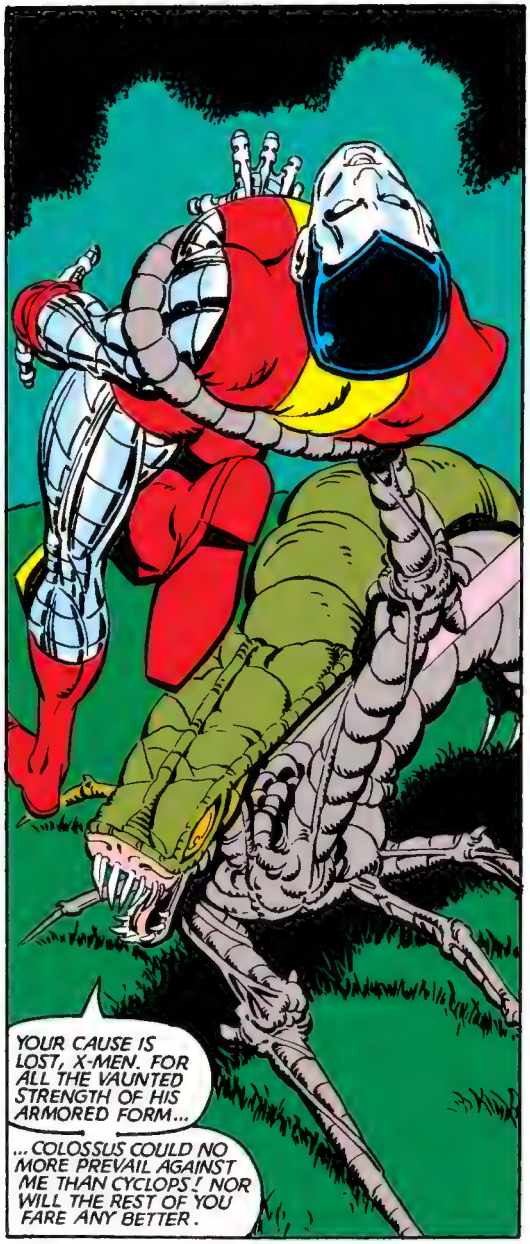

GREETINGS, X-MEN.


WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE! I HAVE LONG HOPED FOR SUCH A MEETING, BUT DESPAIRED OF IT EVER COMING TO PASS.
YOU NEED NOT FEAR FOR THE YOUNGLING -- SHE IS BEYOND HELP --


--FEAR RATHER FOR YOURSELVES!
THE X-MEN HAVE SEEN THIS BEFORE-- AND UNDERGONE IT, TO AN EXTENT--
--BUT TIME AND EXPERIENCE HAVE NOT DIMINISHED THE HORROR AS THIS MAN THEY KNOW AND LOVE IS TRANSFORMED BEFORE THEIR EYES.
THEY DO NOT ACT-- BUT MERELY STAND, WATCHING IN MUTE DISBELIEF.
IN A TWINKLING, IT IS OVER.
CHARLES XAVIER IS NO MORE.
IN HIS PLACE STANDS A YOUNG QUEEN OF THE BROOD.
DOES MY FORM DISPLEASE YOU, X-MEN?

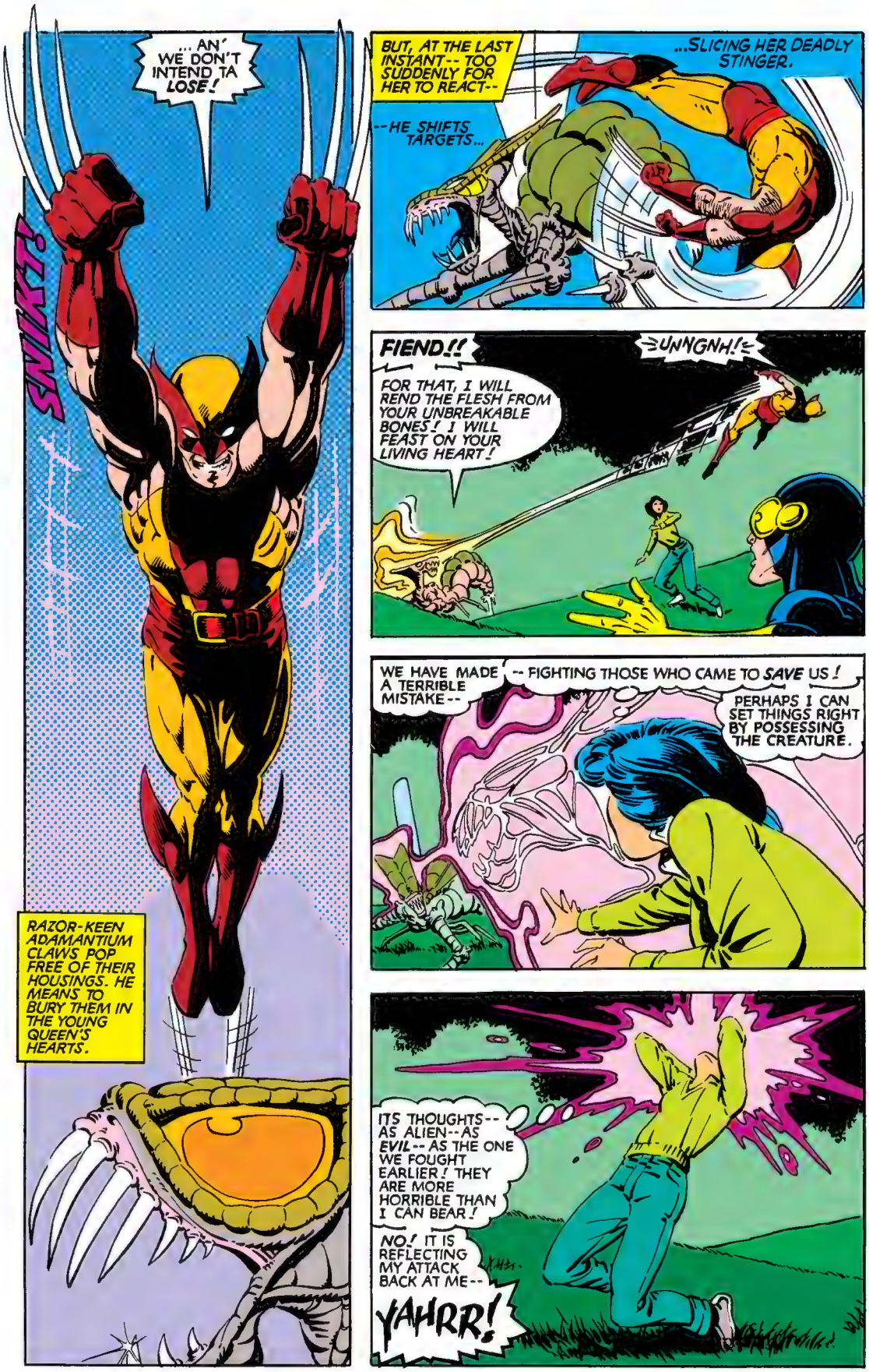

IF SO, THAT CAN BE SPEEDILY REMIDIED BY YOUR OWN METAMORPHOSES--
--OR YOUR DEATHS!
TO COIN A PHRASE:
...WANNA BET?
SPLOW!
LENIN'S GHOST!
A BROOD QUEEN--WE ARRIVED TOO LATE!
THE BOY WHO ATTACKED ME LOOKED AS YOUNG AS I DID WHEN I JOINED THE X-MEN. I HOPE I DID NOT HURT HIM.
THE CREATURE IS NOT EVEN STUNNED! I MUST NOT LET IT ESCAPE!
AND HOW WILL YOU STOP ME, HUMAN...
...WHEN MY MENTAL POWERS ENABLE ME TO READ YOUR EVERY THOUGHT, TO COUNTER YOUR PLANS THE MOMENT YOU CONCEIVE THEM?!

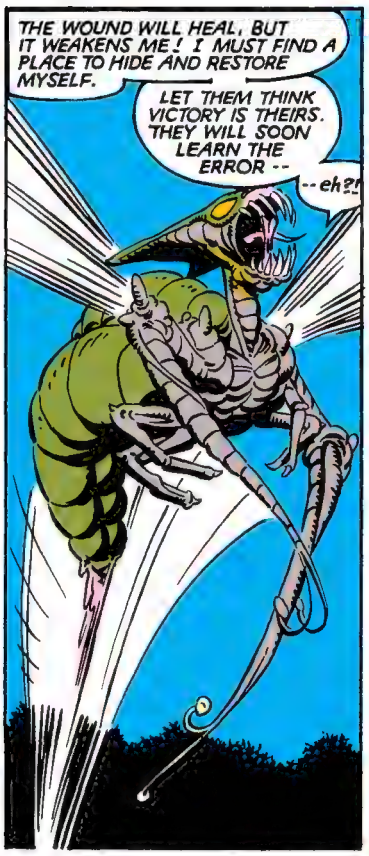

WERE WE SEEING THINGS?! DID PROFESSOR X TURN INTO SOME KIND'A MONSTER-- THE SAME KIND WE FOUGHT BEFORE?! *
STAY OUTTA THIS, YOU KIDS-- WE'LL HANDLE IT.
FORGET THAT, BUSTER! WHO DO YOU CREEPS THINK YOU ARE, ANYWAY?!
THE X-MEN.
BUT--YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!
THERE, CYCLOPS-- BY THE TREE LINE!
*SEE NEW MUTANTS #3 --L.

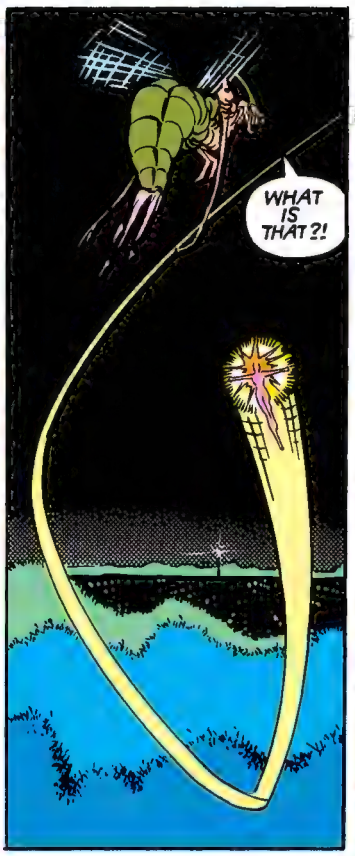

YOUR CAUSE IS LOST, X-MEN. FOR ALL THE VAUNTED STRENGTH OF HIS ARMORED FORM...
...COLOSSUS COULD NO MORE PREVAIL AGAINST ME THAN CYCLOPS! NOR WILL THE REST OF YOU FARE ANY BETTER.

IF YOU WOULD LIVE...
...I SUGGEST YOU FLEE.

SOUNDS LIKE SENSIBLE ADVICE-- THE KIND I BEEN IGNORIN' SINCE I WAS BORN.
WE'VE COME A FAR PIECE FOR THIS SCRAP, SLEAZY...

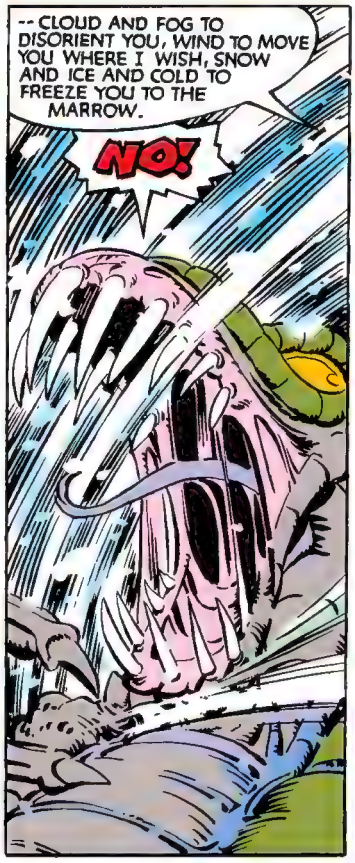

... AN' WE DON'T INTEND TA LOSE!
SNIKT!
RAZOR-KEEN ADAMANTIUM CLAWS POP FREE OF THEIR HOUSINGS. HE MEANS TO BURY THEM IN THE YOUNG QUEEN'S HEARTS.
BUT, AT THE LAST INSTANT-- TOO SUDDENLY FOR HER TO REACT--
...SLICING HER DEADLY STINGER.
--HE SHIFTS TARGETS...
FIEND!!
FOR THAT, I WILL REND THE FLESH FROM YOUR UNBREAKABLE BONES! I WILL FEAST ON YOUR LIVING HEART!
UNNGNH!
WE HAVE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE--
-- FIGHTING THOSE WHO CAME TO SAVE US!
PERHAPS I CAN SET THINGS RIGHT BY POSSESSING THE CREATURE.
ITS THOUGHTS-- AS ALIEN--AS EVIL-- AS THE ONE WE FOUGHT EARLIER! THEY ARE MORE HORRIBLE THAN I CAN BEAR!
NO! IT IS REFLECTING MY ATTACK BACK AT ME--
YAHRR!


THE WOUND WILL HEAL, BUT IT WEAKENS ME! I MUST FIND A PLACE TO HIDE AND RESTORE MYSELF.
LET THEM THINK VICTORY IS THEIRS. THEY WILL SOON LEARN THE ERROR --
--eh?!


WHAT IS THAT?!

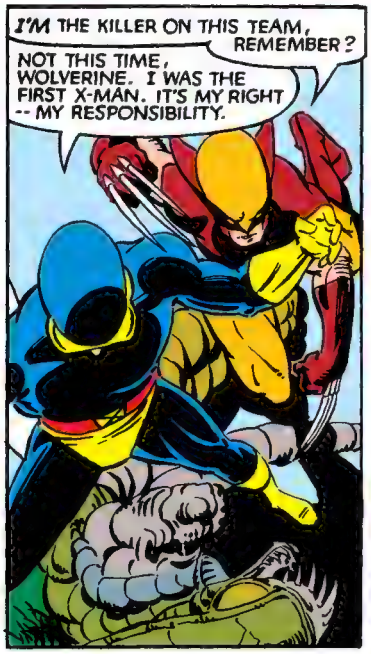
THE NAME'S BINARY!
I HATE TO DISILLUSION YOU, MONSTER, BUT FROM US--
-- THERE IS NO ESCAPE.

THE SKY-- IT WAS CLEAR A MOMENT AGO!
MY DOING.
STORM!
THE NATURAL ELEMENTS ARE MINE TO COMMAND, BROODQUEEN, AND FROM THEM I HAVE CONJURED THE ULTIMATE BLIZZARD--


-- CLOUD AND FOG TO DISORIENT YOU, WIND TO MOVE YOU WHERE I WISH, SNOW AND ICE AND COLD TO FREEZE YOU TO THE MARROW.
NO!

YOU YOURSELF NAMED THE TERMS OF OUR BATTLE-- TO THE DEATH-- ONLY THAT DEATH, EVIL ONE...
...WILL BE YOURS.

NICE WORK, ORORO.
THE QUEEN ISN'T MOVING, IS SHE DEAD?
IF SHE ISN'T KURT, SHE SOON WILL BE.
I COULD HAVE SLAIN HER WITH A LIGHTNING BOLT...
... BUT I COULD NOT BRING MYSELF TO DO IT.
NO SHAME IN BEIN' WHAT YOU ARE, DARLIN'.


I'M THE KILLER ON THIS TEAM, REMEMBER?
NOT THIS TIME, WOLVERINE. I WAS THE FIRST X-MAN. IT'S MY RIGHT -- MY RESPONSIBILITY.

FORGIVE ME, PROFESSOR. IF THERE WAS ANY ALTERNATIVE...
THERE IS... NONE, SCOTT...
PROFESSOR?!?
Y-YES. MENTAL TRANSFOR-MATION... INCOMPLETE...

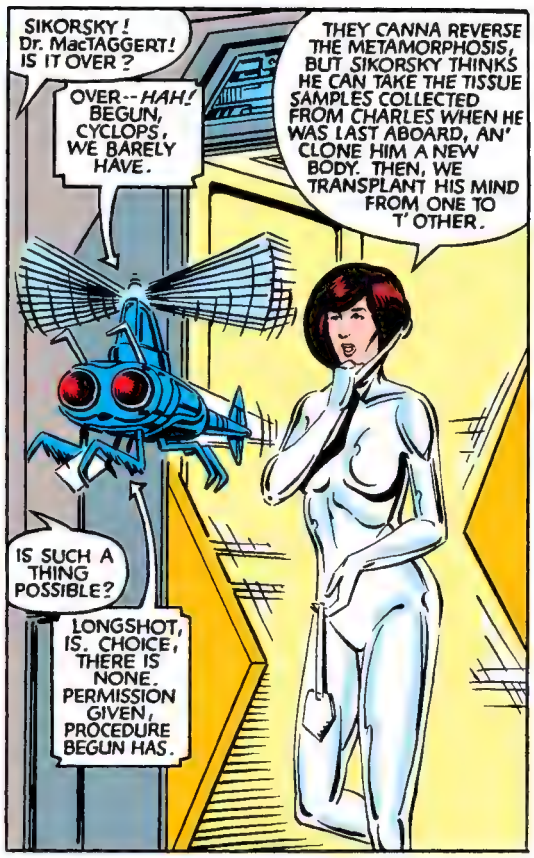
... BEEN RESISTING... ALL MY MIGHT... SHOCK OF STORM'S ASSAULT ENABLED ME... TO GAIN UPPER HAND. EVENTUALLY, THOUGH, BROOD PERSONA WILL OVERWHELM ME.
THAT MUST NOT COME TO PASS. FOR THE GOOD OF EARTH, OF HUMANITY...
... KILL ME, SCOTT, I BEG YOU!
YOU HEARD THE MAN.

I ALSO HEARD PHOENIX PLAY THIS RIFF BEFORE SHE DIED! I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO SAVE THE WOMAN I LOVED.
I'M DAMNED IF I'M GOING TO WATCH CHARLES XAVIER GO THE SAME WAY.

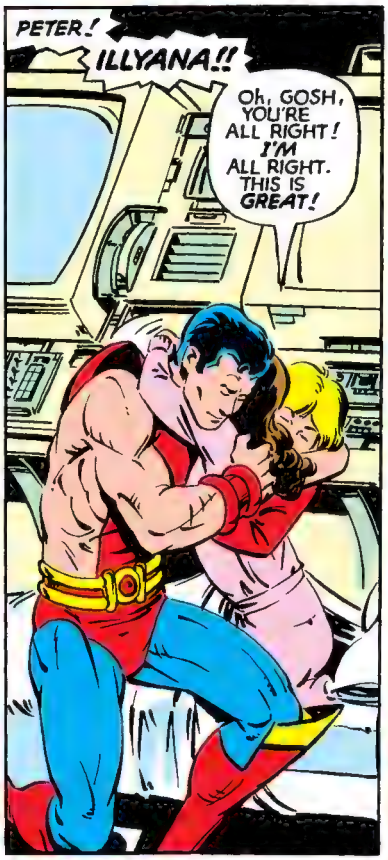
SO LONG AS THERE'S HOPE -- NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT -- THE X-MEN FIGHT TO PRESERVE LIFE. TO CREATE, RATHER THAN DESTROY.
ANY OBJECTIONS?

LOTS.
NONE.
SO THAT'S CYCLOPS.
WOW!

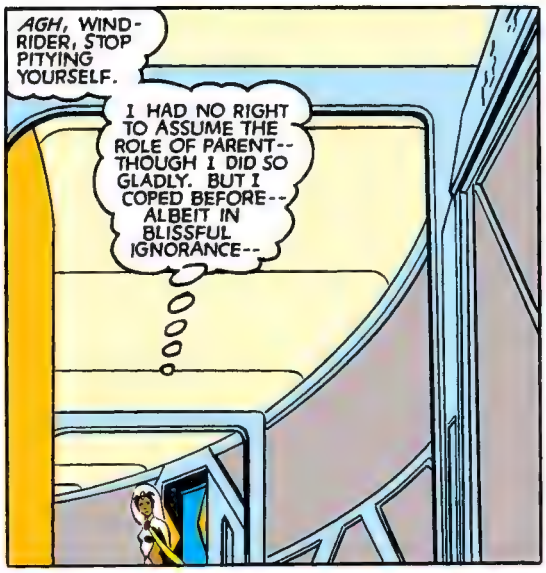
LATER, ABOARD THE STARJAMMER, IN EARTH ORBIT...
THE PROFESSOR'S BEEN UNDER SIKORSKY'S MEDISCANNERS AN AWFULLY LONG TIME. I WISH THERE WAS SOME NEWS.
BE PATIENT, SCOTT. IT'LL COME.
AM I CHASING RAINBOWS, DAD?
DOES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
NOT REALLY.

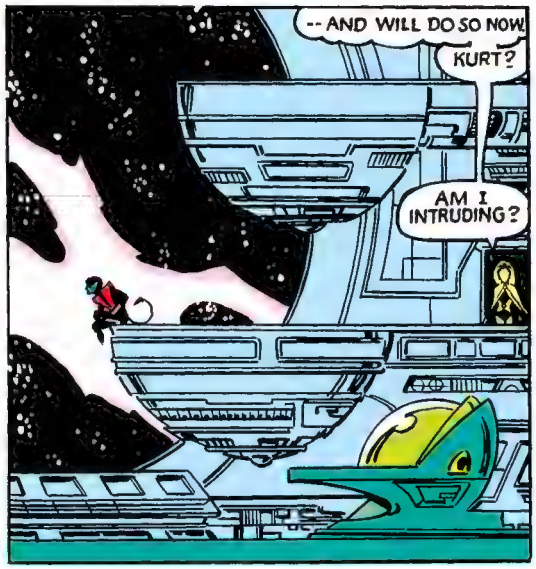

SIKORSKY! Dr. MacTAGGERT! IS IT OVER?
OVER--HAH! BEGUN, CYCLOPS, WE BARELY HAVE.
THEY CANNA REVERSE THE METAMORPHOSIS, BUT SIKORSKY THINKS HE CAN TAKE THE TISSUE SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM CHARLES WHEN HE WAS LAST ABOARD, AN' CLONE HIM A NEW BODY. THEN, WE TRANSPLANT HIS MIND FROM ONE TO T' OTHER.
IS SUCH A THING POSSIBLE?
LONGSHOT, IS. CHOICE, THERE IS NONE. PERMISSION GIVEN, PROCEDURE BEGUN HAS.

NEARBY, IN ANOTHER WARD OF THE SHIP'S MEDICAL BAY...
BEHOLD, ILLYANA--OUR SLEEPING BEAUTY AT LAST AWAKES.
HOW'RE YOU DOING, KITTY? MY BIG BROTHER 'N' I WERE BEGINNING TO WONDER IF YOU WERE GOING TO STAY IN DREAMLAND FOREVER.


PETER!
ILLYANA!!
Oh, GOSH, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! I'M ALL RIGHT. THIS IS GREAT!

I SHARED THIS VIGIL TOO, KITTEN. YET YOUR THOUGHTS ARE OF YOUR BEST FRIEND AND THE MAN YOU BELIEVE YOU LOVE... WHERE ONCE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN OF ME.
IT IS ONLY NATURAL. CHANGE IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF NATURE, AND THIS, ONE I HAVE LONG EXPECTED. BUT NOW THAT IT HAS ACTUALLY HAPPENED...
...WHY DO I FEEL SO ALONE?


AGH, WIND-RIDER, STOP PITYING YOURSELF.
I HAD NO RIGHT TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF PARENT--THOUGH I DID SO GLADLY. BUT I COPED BEFORE--ALBEIT IN BLISSFUL IGNORANCE--

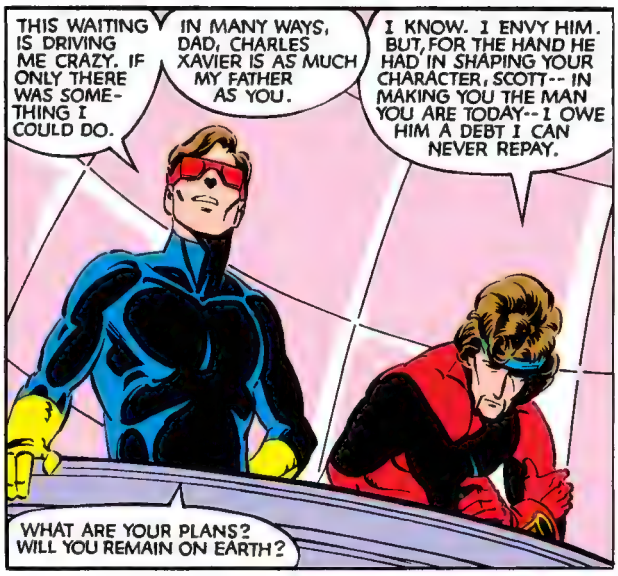

--AND WILL DO SO NOW.
KURT?
AM I INTRUDING?

NEVER, DEAR LADY. YOUR PRESENCE IS ALWAYS WELCOME.
FLATTERER.
THAT'S ME--THE SILVER-TONGUED, BLUE-FURRED DEVIL.
WHOSE DELIGHT IS IN MAKING PEOPLE LAUGH.

SOME MORE THAN OTHERS, IT SEEMS.
PROBLEMS?
NO MORE THAN I EXPECTED. NOTHING I HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED BEFORE.
DO Y'ALL BELIEVE THIS VIEW?
I CAN SEE MY MOUNTAINS!

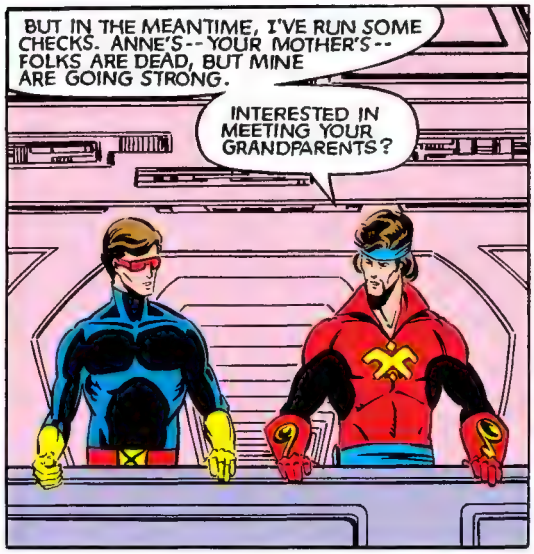
THE JURY IS STILL OUT ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY'LL ACCEPT ME. IT'S ONE THING TO WATCH SOMEONE LIKE ME ON A CINEMA OR TELEVISION SCREEN...
... QUITE ANOTHER TO SHARE A DINNER TABLE WITH HIM.
KITTY WAS FRIGHTENED OF YOU AT FIRST. SHE GOT OVER IT.

SO WILL THEY.

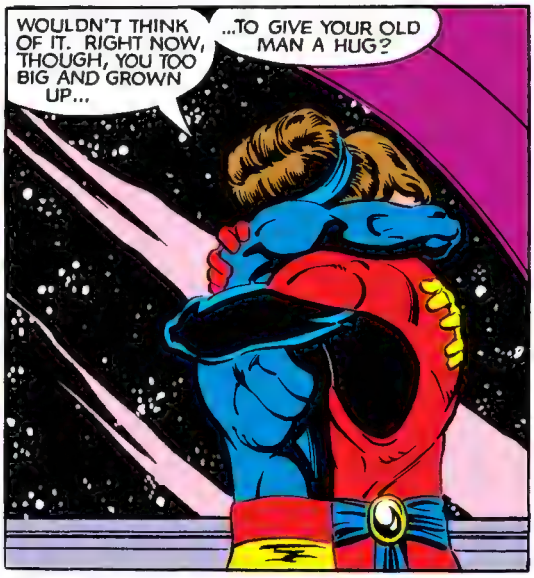

THIS WAITING IS DRIVING ME CRAZY. IF ONLY THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO.
IN MANY WAYS, DAD, CHARLES XAVIER IS AS MUCH MY FATHER AS YOU.
I KNOW. I ENVY HIM. BUT, FOR THE HAND HE HAD IN SHAPING YOUR CHARACTER, SCOTT-- IN MAKING YOU THE MAN YOU ARE TODAY--I OWE HIM A DEBT I CAN NEVER REPAY.
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS? WILL YOU REMAIN ON EARTH?

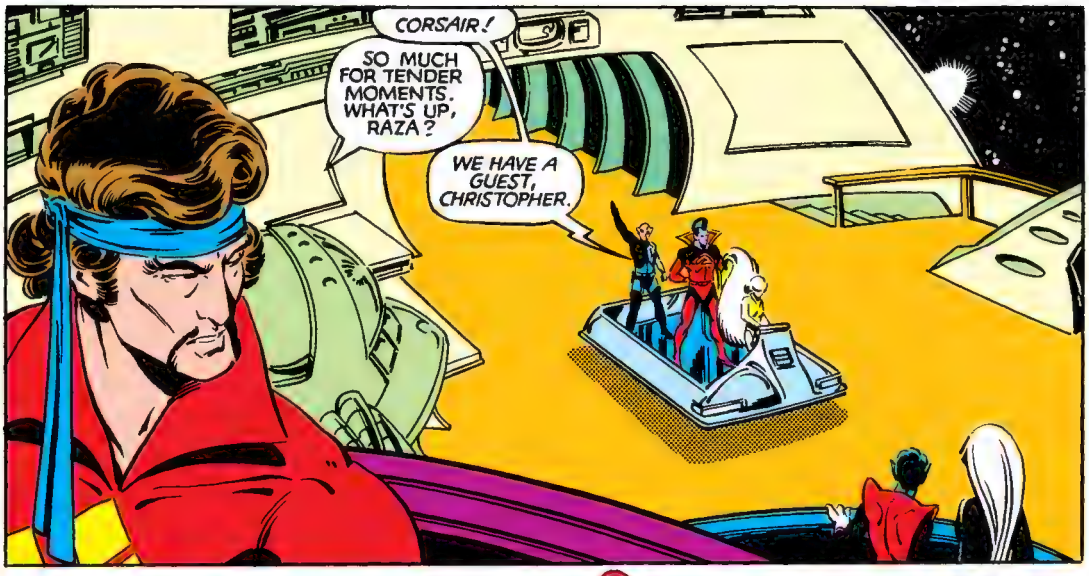
FOR AWHILE. THERE ARE PEOPLE TO SEE, YEARS TO CATCH UP ON-- BUT THOSE YEARS ARE THE MAIN REASON WHY, IN THE END, I'LL RETURN TO SPACE.
I'VE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG, SCOTT-- THIS ISN'T THE WORLD I REMEMBER-- I'M DECADES BEHIND THE TIMES YET CENTURIES AHEAD OF THEM. CHRISTOPHER SUMMERS-- MAJOR, U.S. AIR FORCE-- IS NO MORE. I'M CORSAIR.
EARTH ISN'T MY HOME ANYMORE, THE STARJAMMER IS.

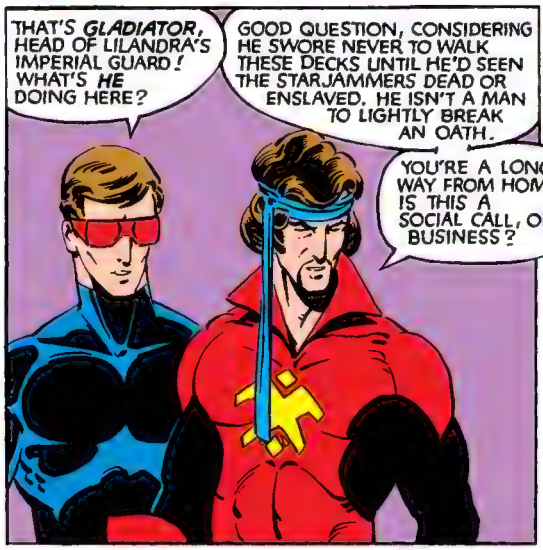
WHEN YOU LEAVE...
...WILL YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU?
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, THEN GLADLY.


BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I'VE RUN SOME CHECKS. ANNE'S-- YOUR MOTHER'S-- FOLKS ARE DEAD, BUT MINE ARE GOING STRONG.
INTERESTED IN MEETING YOUR GRANDPARENTS?

I HAVE GRANDPARENTS?!?
MOST EVERYONE DOES.
WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?!
ONLY ONE SURE WAY TO FIND OUT.
YOU BET I'M INTERESTED! JUST TRY TO KEEP ME AWAY!


WOULDN'T THINK OF IT. RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, YOU TOO BIG AND GROWN UP...
...TO GIVE YOUR OLD MAN A HUG?


CORSAIR!
SO MUCH FOR TENDER MOMENTS. WHAT'S UP, RAZA?
WE HAVE A GUEST, CHRISTOPHER.

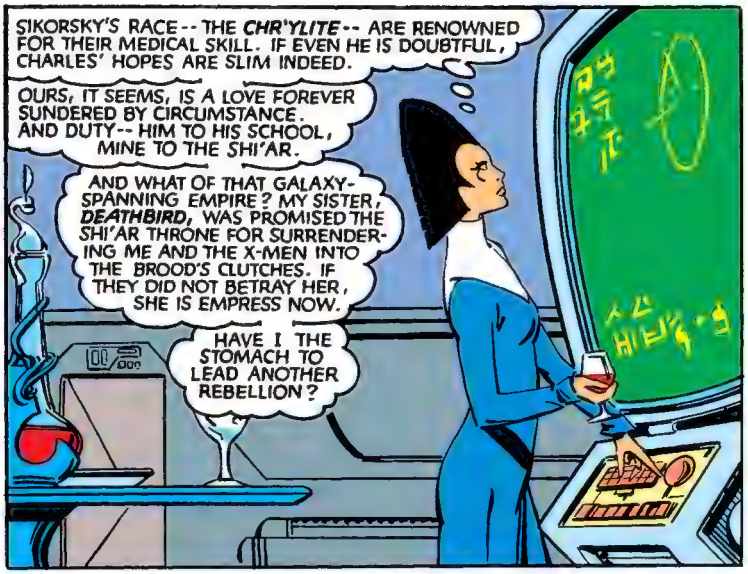

THAT'S GLADIATOR, HEAD OF LILANDRA'S IMPERIAL GUARD! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
GOOD QUESTION, CONSIDERING HE SWORE NEVER TO WALK THESE DECKS UNTIL HE'D SEEN THE STARJAMMERS DEAD OR ENSLAVED. HE ISN'T A MAN TO LIGHTLY BREAK AN OATH.
YOU'RE A LONG WAY FROM HOME. IS THIS A SOCIAL CALL, OR BUSINESS?

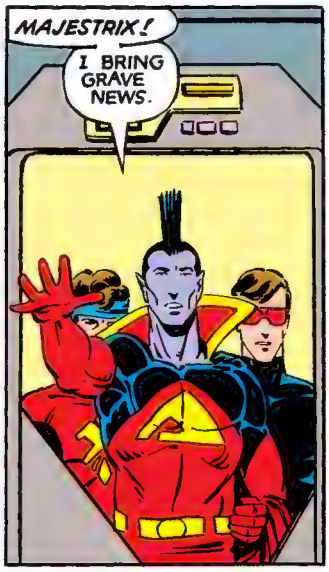
PIRATE, I DEMAND TO SEE THE MAJESTRIX-- EMPRESS LILANDRA-- AT ONCE!

ON MY SHIP, LORD PRAETOR, YOU DO NOT "DEMAND" OF ME...
...YOU ASK.

THOU HAST E'ER BEEN ILL-MANNERED, COUSIN.
HAVE A CARE, RENEGADE.
WE LIKE YOU TOO, IMPERIAL. CARE TO ARGUE POINT?

ANOTHER TIME, LADY HEPZIBAH, WITH PLEASURE.
CORSAIR, I CRAVE AN AUDIENCE...
...WITH MY EMPRESS.


SIKORSKY'S RACE -- THE CHR'YLITE -- ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR MEDICAL SKILL. IF EVEN HE IS DOUBTFUL, CHARLES' HOPES ARE SLIM INDEED.
OURS, IT SEEMS, IS A LOVE FOREVER SUNDERED BY CIRCUMSTANCE. AND DUTY -- HIM TO HIS SCHOOL, MINE TO THE SHI'AR.
AND WHAT OF THAT GALAXY-SPANNING EMPIRE? MY SISTER, DEATHBIRD, WAS PROMISED THE SHI'AR THRONE FOR SURRENDERING ME AND THE X-MEN INTO THE BROOD'S CLUTCHES. IF THEY DID NOT BETRAY HER, SHE IS EMPRESS NOW.
HAVE I THE STOMACH TO LEAD ANOTHER REBELLION?

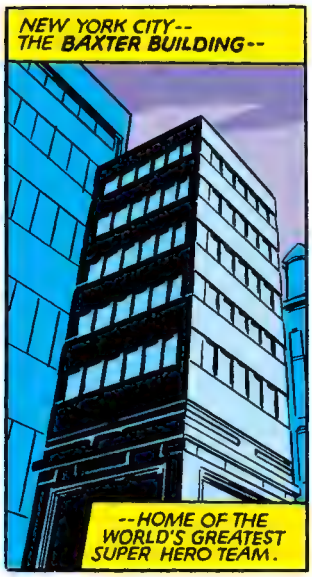

MAJESTRIX!
I BRING GRAVE NEWS.

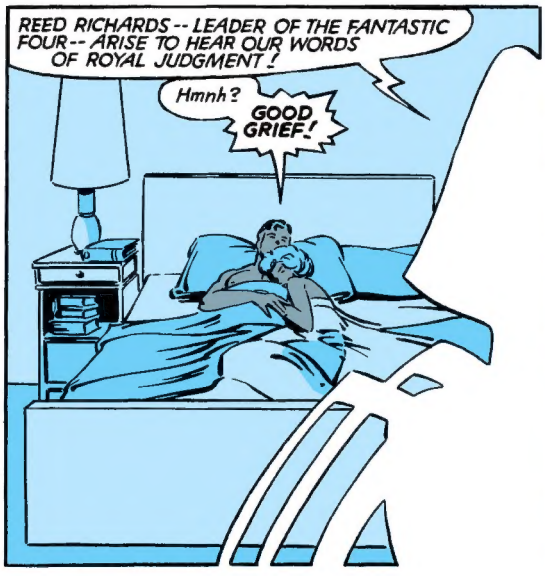
I'VE GUESSED IT, MY FRIEND. MY SISTER AT LAST HAS HER HEART'S DESIRE. PERHAPS WE SHOULD LEAVE HER TO ENJOY IT IN PEACE.
THERE WILL BE NO PEACE, SO LONG AS DEATHBIRD RULES.
SHE IS UNFIT, LILANDRA -- AS MAD, IN HER OWN WAY, AS YOUR BROTHER D'KEN.

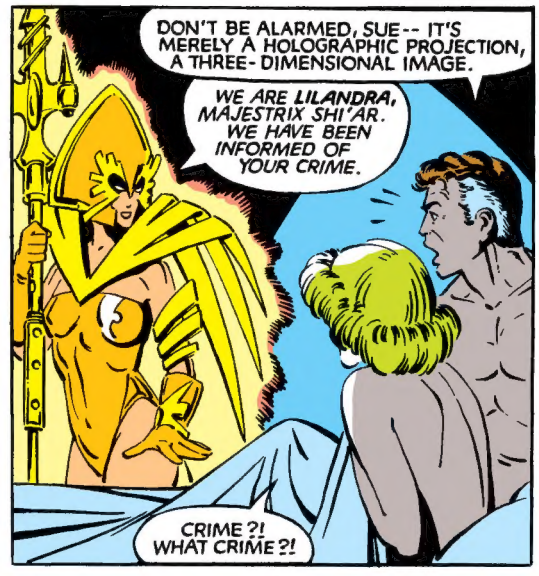
WE ARE, I FEAR, A MAD FAMILY. IT SIMPLY HASN'T TOUCHED ME YET.
THERE IS MORE. UPON ARRIVAL HERE, I UNINTENTIONALLY CAME INTO CONFLICT WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR.* I LATER LEARNED THAT THEY HAD RECENTLY ENCOUNTERED GALACTUS.
* FF #'s 249 & 250 -- L.

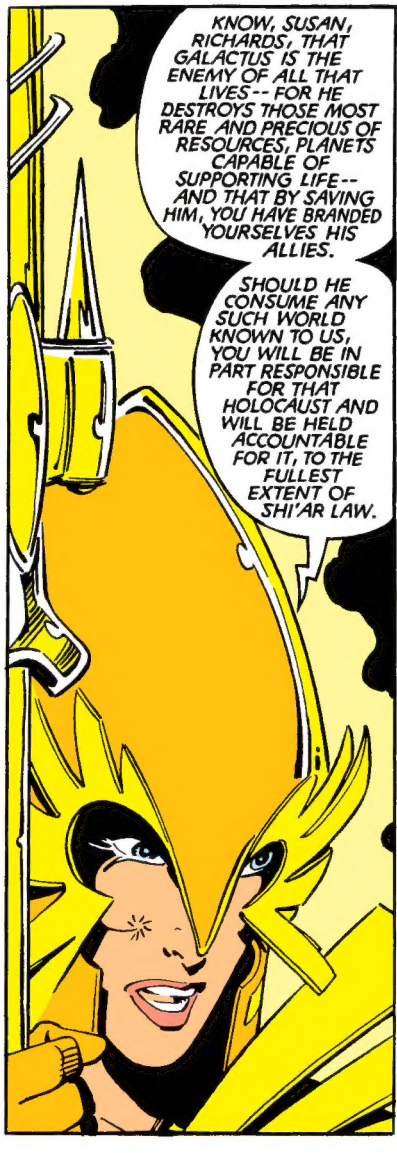
MAJESTRIX, THE SHATTERER OF WORLDS HAD RETURNED TO EARTH TO DIE!
THEN HIS THREAT IS FINALLY ENDED?

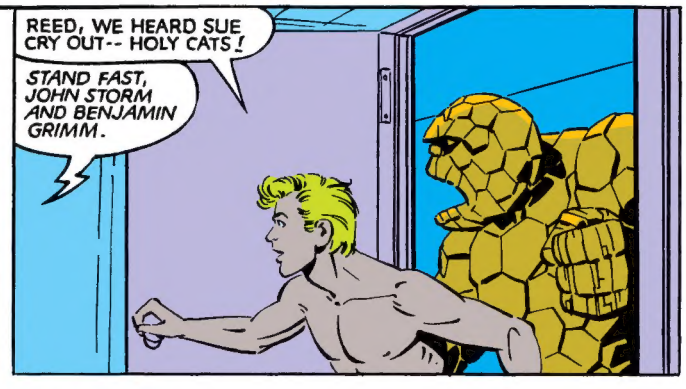
WOULD THAT IT WERE. WITH THE INTERVENTION OF REED RICHARDS, GALACTUS WAS RESTORED TO HEALTH, GIVEN A NEW HERALD AND SET FREE!
THAT MEDDLING, UNMITIGATED -- FOOL!

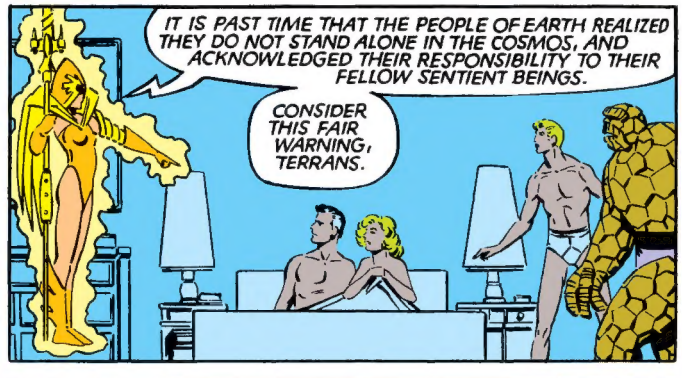

NEW YORK CITY -- THE BAXTER BUILDING --
-- HOME OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER HERO TEAM.

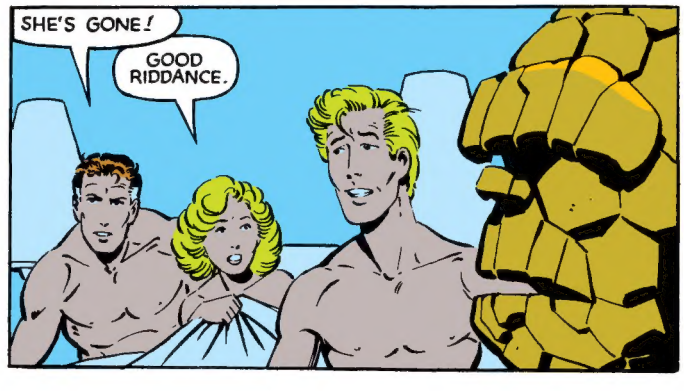

REED RICHARDS -- LEADER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR -- ARISE TO HEAR OUR WORDS OF ROYAL JUDGMENT!
Hmnh?
GOOD GRIEF!

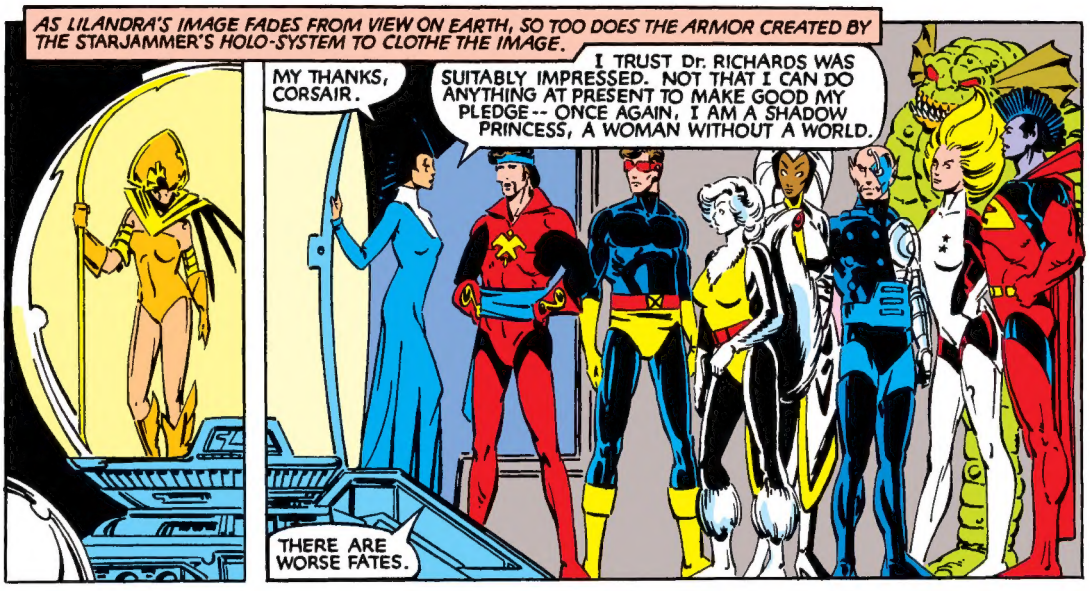

DON'T BE ALARMED, SUE -- IT'S MERELY A HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION, A THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE.
WE ARE LILANDRA, MAJESTRIX SHI'AR. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF YOUR CRIME.
CRIME?! WHAT CRIME?!


KNOW, SUSAN, RICHARDS, THAT GALACTUS IS THE ENEMY OF ALL THAT LIVES -- FOR HE DESTROYS THOSE MOST RARE AND PRECIOUS OF RESOURCES, PLANETS CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING LIFE -- AND THAT BY SAVING HIM, YOU HAVE BRANDED YOURSELVES HIS ALLIES.
SHOULD HE CONSUME ANY SUCH WORLD KNOWN TO US, YOU WILL BE IN PART RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT HOLOCAUST AND WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR IT, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF SHI'AR LAW.


REED, WE HEARD SUE CRY OUT -- HOLY CATS!
STAND FAST, JOHN STORM AND BENJAMIN GRIMM.

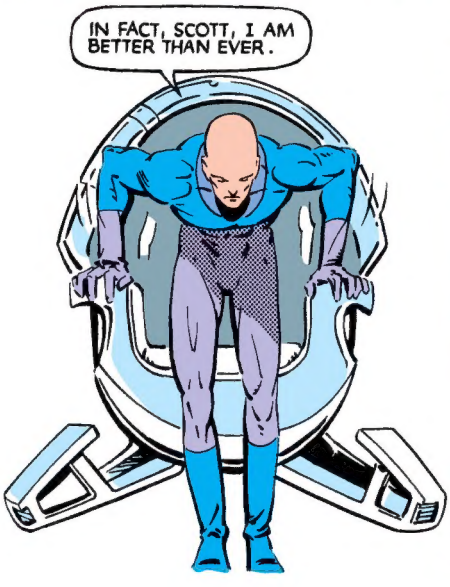

IT IS PAST TIME THAT THE PEOPLE OF EARTH REALIZED THEY DO NOT STAND ALONE IN THE COSMOS, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO THEIR FELLOW SENTIENT BEINGS.
CONSIDER THIS FAIR WARNING, TERRANS.

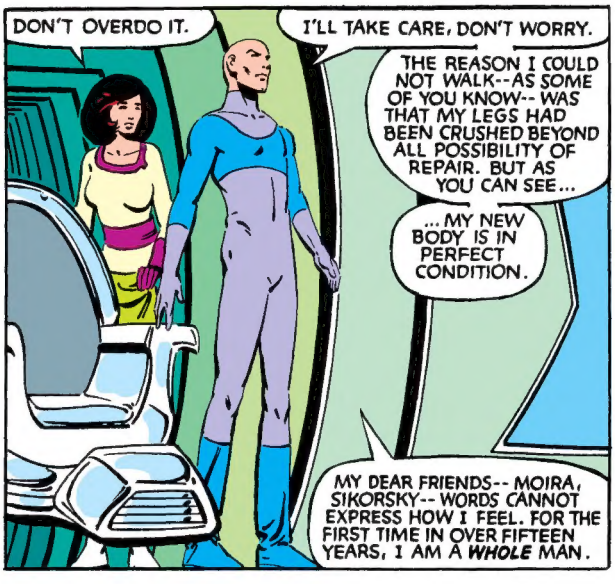

SHE'S GONE!
GOOD RIDDANCE.

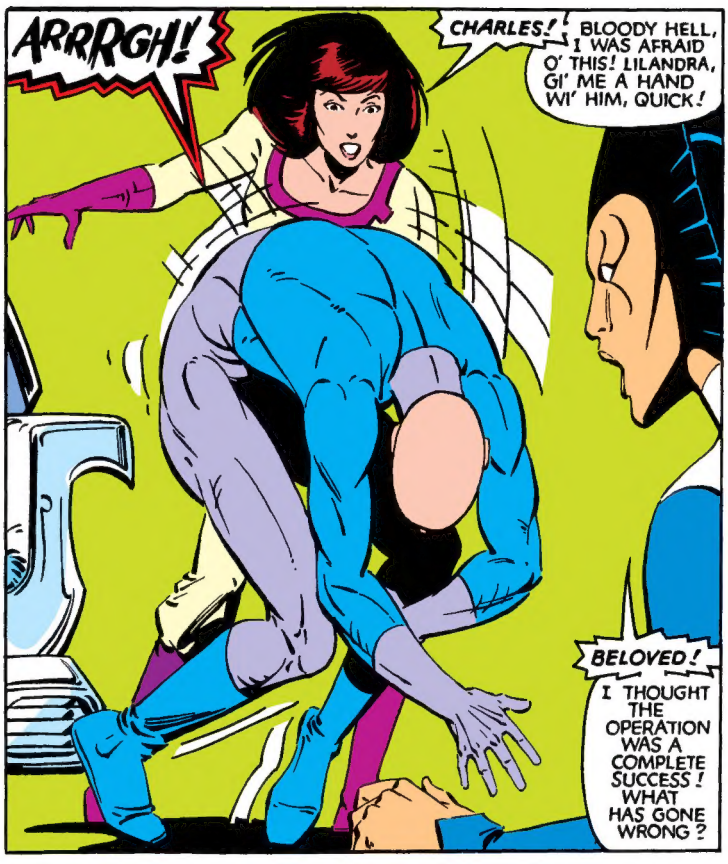

AS LILANDRA'S IMAGE FADES FROM VIEW ON EARTH, SO TOO DOES THE ARMOR CREATED BY THE STARJAMMER'S HOLO-SYSTEM TO CLOTHE THE IMAGE.
MY THANKS, CORSAIR.
I TRUST Dr. RICHARDS WAS SUITABLY IMPRESSED. NOT THAT I CAN DO ANYTHING AT PRESENT TO MAKE GOOD MY PLEDGE-- ONCE AGAIN, I AM A SHADOW PRINCESS, A WOMAN WITHOUT A WORLD.
THERE ARE WORSE FATES.

HI, GUYS! DIDJA MISS US?!
HAVE WE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU!
DO WE DO GOOD WORK, OR WHAT?
GREETINGS, X-MEN AND STARJAMMERS.
HELLO, LILANDRA.

PROFESSOR XAVIER!!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!


IN FACT, SCOTT, I AM BETTER THAN EVER.


DON'T OVERDO IT.
I'LL TAKE CARE, DON'T WORRY.
THE REASON I COULD NOT WALK--AS SOME OF YOU KNOW-- WAS THAT MY LEGS HAD BEEN CRUSHED BEYOND ALL POSSIBILITY OF REPAIR. BUT AS YOU CAN SEE...
... MY NEW BODY IS IN PERFECT CONDITION.
MY DEAR FRIENDS-- MOIRA, SIKORSKY-- WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS HOW I FEEL. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER FIFTEEN YEARS, I AM A WHOLE MAN.


ARRRGH!
CHARLES!
BLOODY HELL, I WAS AFRAID O' THIS! LILANDRA, GI' ME A HAND WI' HIM, QUICK!
BELOVED!
I THOUGHT THE OPERATION WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS! WHAT HAS GONE WRONG?

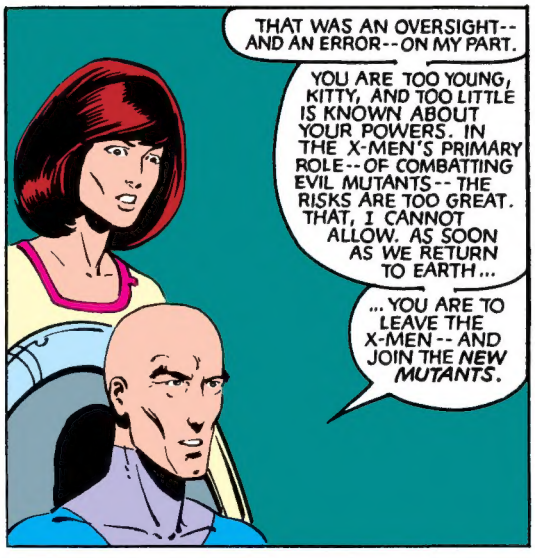
EVER SINCE MY LEGS WERE CRUSHED, I'VE USED MY PSI-POWERS TO BLOCK THE PAIN, ELSE IT WOULD HAVE CONSUMED ME. EVEN AFTER THEY HEALED, MORE OR LESS, THE NERVES WERE BADLY TRAUMATIZED. THE SLIGHTEST PRESSURE--EVEN THE ATTEMPT TO STAND-- MEANT UNBEARABLE AGONY.
NOW, THOUGH THERE IS NO PHYSICAL PAIN, A PSYCHO-SOMATIC RESPONCE EVIDENTLY EXISTS-- AS CRIPPLING AS THE ORIGINAL. I CAN WALK, BUT MY MIND WON'T LET ME.

THA' CAN CHANGE, CHARLEY, PROVIDED Y' WORK AT IT. HOW-EVER, YOU'RE A STUBBORN MAN, WI' A STUBBORN SUBCONSCIOUS-- OVERCOMING SUCH INGRAINED CONDITIONING WON'T BE EASY.
GEE, PROFESSOR, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TRAIN IN THE DANGER ROOM, JUST LIKE US.

AND SHOULD YOU NEED ENCOURAGEMENT, MY LOVE, I SHALL DO MY BEST TO PROVIDE IT.
AN' IF LIL'S T.L.C. DOES NA' DO THE TRICK...
... I'LL KICK YOU IN THE BUTT.
TRUST US, CHARLEY-LUV. WE'LL HAVE YOU ON YUIR FEET IN NO TIME.

I'LL HOLD YOU TO THAT, MOIRA.
Sigh!
I HAVE RARELY WITNESSED SO HAPPY A DAY. TO SEE THOSE I FEARED LOST FOREVER RETURN HOME ALIVE AND WELL. TO BE ALIVE AND WELL MYSELF. THERE ARE MORE BLESSINGS THAN ANY MAN DESERVES.
AS YOU X-MEN HAVE NO DOUBT NOTICED, I HAVE ADMITTED NEW STUDENTS TO THE SCHOOL. I APOLOGIZE FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR INITIAL MEETING. I HOPE YOU'LL ALL BECOME FRIENDS.
SOUNDS GREAT TO US.
ONE TUSSLE WITH COLOSSUS WAS MORE'N ENOUGH F'R ME.

THE FEELING, TOVARISCH, IS MUTUAL. HAD YOU STRUCK HARDER...
THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL BENEFIT TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW MUTANTS. AT LAST, KITTY WILL BE ABLE TO STUDY WITH CHILDREN HER OWN AGE.
HUH? SAYS WHO?! I'M AN X-MAN!


THAT WAS AN OVERSIGHT-- AND AN ERROR--ON MY PART.
YOU ARE TOO YOUNG, KITTY, AND TOO LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT YOUR POWERS. IN THE X-MEN'S PRIMARY ROLE--OF COMBATTING EVIL MUTANTS--THE RISKS ARE TOO GREAT. THAT, I CANNOT ALLOW. AS SOON AS WE RETURN TO EARTH...
...YOU ARE TO LEAVE THE X-MEN--AND JOIN THE NEW MUTANTS.

MY DECISION IS FINAL.
NEXT ISSUE: KITTY'S REACTION, OR --
"PROFESSOR XAVIER IS A JERK!"